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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of)

CHEHADE, Fadi B. et al.)

Serial No. 09/757,771)

Filed: January 9, 2001)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR FACILITATING)
BUSINESS PROCESSES)

Examiner: CAMPEN, Kelly S.

Group Art Unit 3624

RECEIVED
APR 17 2003
GROUP 3600PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/757,771 to be made special. A check for \$130.00 is enclosed for payment of the petition fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Applicants submit that all claims presented in the subject patent application are directed to a single invention. If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, Applicants will make an oral election without traverse, in

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accordance with the established telephone restriction practice, as a prerequisite to the grant of special status

A pre-examination search was made for the subject invention in the following field of search:

- Class 705 (Data Processing: Financial, Business Practice, Management, or Cost/Price Determination) in subclasses 37, 26, 27, 28 and 29;
- Class 709 (Electrical Computers and Digital Processing Systems: Multiple Computer or Process Coordinating) in subclasses 203, 205, 206 and 207 and
- Class 707 (Data Processing: Database and File Management, Data Structures, or Document Processing) in subclasses 9 and 104.1.

A. Prior Art Uncovered

The following patents were uncovered in this search:

<u>PATENT NUMBER</u>	<u>INVENTOR</u>	<u>ISSUED</u>
6,035,287	Stallaert, et al.	March 7, 2000
5,761,661	Coussens et al.	June 2, 1998
3,573,747	Adams et al.	April 6, 1971
6,023,686	Brown	February 8, 2000
5,845,266	Lupien et al.	December 1, 1998
5,297,032	Trojan et al.	March 22, 1994
5,285,383	Lindsey et al.	February 8, 1994
3,249,919	Scantlin	May 3, 1966

Discussion of References

For convenience, Applicants will refer to each patent by the last name of the first-listed inventor (e.g., Stallaert). A copy of each patent is enclosed.

Stallaert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,287) The present invention allows market participants to exchange bundles of assets, including assets in different asset classes. A market participant may value the bundle as an entity, alleviating the need to attempt to attain a value objective in the aggregate by valuing and trading assets individually. A bundle of assets to be traded is entered, wherein proportions of each asset to be traded in units of a specified bundle size are provided by the market participant. Assets to be acquired by one market participant are matched against the same asset which other market participants are seeking to dispose. An exchange of bundled assets among market participants, in units of the bundles themselves is effected when the exchange satisfies a predetermined set of criteria. Stallaert does not teach, describe or suggest a common interface for handling business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.

Cousens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,661) discloses a centrally located Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system for communicating with at least one trading partner. However, as the background section of the pending application illustrates, EDI systems (such as the one described in Cousens) lack a

mechanism for implementing the exchange of business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.

Adams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,573,747) describes an apparatus and method of "automatically, anonymously and equitably buying and selling fungible properties between subscribers." The specific embodiment described in the '747 disclosure relates to the buying and selling of securities in a way that permits institutional investors to communicate anonymously with each other for purposes of arranging block trades of listed and over-the-counter securities. Adams does not teach, describe or suggest a common interface for handling business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.

Brown (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,686) discloses a method for conducting an on-line bidding session to accumulate a collective bid for a property. The bidding session is conducted over a computer network that includes a central computer, a number of remote computers, and communication lines connecting the remote computers to the central computer. According to the method, at least one bidding group is registered in the central computer. The bidding group can be an association, institution, or group of investors formed for the purpose of bidding together for the property. The bidding group has a total bid for the property tracked in the central computer. The central computer receives bids entered from the remote computers by members of the bidding group. Each bid includes an individual bid amount which is contributed to the total bid of the group to accumulate the collective bid for the property. Brown does not teach,

describe or suggest a common interface for handling business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.

Lupien et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,845,266) describes a crossing network that matches buy and sell orders based upon a satisfaction and quantity profile includes a number of trader terminals that can be used for entering orders. The orders are entered in the form of a satisfaction density profile that represents a degree of satisfaction to trade a particular instrument at various (price, quantity) combinations. Typically, each order is either a buy order or a sell order. The trader terminals are coupled to a matching controller computer. The matching controller computer can receive as input the satisfaction density profiles entered at each one of the trading terminals. The matching controller computer matches orders (as represented by each trader's satisfaction density profile) so that each trader is assured that the overall outcome of the process (in terms of average price and size of fill) has maximized the mutual satisfaction of all traders. Typically, the matching process is anonymous. The matching process can be continuous or a batch process, or a hybrid of the two. Unmatched satisfaction density profiles can be used to provide spread and pricing information. Factors other than price and quantity also may be used to determine the degree of satisfaction. Optionally, priority may be given to certain profiles in the matching process to accommodate stock exchange rules, for example, requiring that priority be given to orders exhibiting the best price, regardless of size or any other consideration. Lupien does not teach, describe or suggest a common

interface for handling business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.

Trojan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,297,032) describes a securities trading workstation integrated into a network of competing market makers for a plurality of securities for trading. The workstation is specifically programmed to receive the feed of data from a centralized database enabling the traders equipped with the workstation to enter transactions with more complete knowledge of the current market. Trojan does not teach, describe or suggest a common interface for handling business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.

Lindsey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,285,383) describes commodity trading system having a centralized computer and data base. Each commodity, such as a bale of cotton, or a block of bales, is represented in the data base as a file having all the information unique to such bale, including a title flag. The title flag field of bale record and block record indicates whether the title to the cotton bale, or block of bales, is carried by way of a card-type warehouse receipt, or electronically. The electronic representation of title eliminates the transferral of documentary type title which is traditionally mailed to various locations to follow the trading transactions. Lindsey does not teach, describe or suggest a common interface for handling business process data by linking together a series of messages into a logical workflow sequence over time.


Scantlin (U.S. Patent No. 3,249,919) describes an apparatus for storing and disseminating data such as securities that may be accessed through the telephone system. Scantlin does not teach, describe or suggest a framework for facilitating any other business processes among and between multiple trading partners.

Applicants respectfully submit that all requirements for a grantable petition to make an application special pursuant to 37 1.102 and in accordance with MPEP 708.02 have been satisfied. Accordingly, Applicants requests that Application No. 09/757,771 be made special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP 708.023, Section VIII Accelerated Examination.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HECKER LAW GROUP

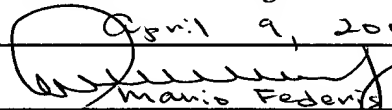
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

April 9, 2003

Mario Federis

Signature

Date 04/09/2003